



PVRC Newsletter

September 2021

Newsletter Editor: John K3TN jpescatore@aol.com

Website: <http://www.pvrc.org>

Meeting Info: <http://www.pvrc.org/chapters.htm>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PotomacValleyRadioClub/>

President's Letter – Dan K2YWE

A new 5M Milestone is reached by N4AF

N4AF is the first Op in PVRC history to achieve the 200M level in the 5M program. What adds to the significance of Howie's achievement is that he earned that level with 99% of his points total coming from Single Op operations. Congratulations and a huge Well Done to N4AF for a truly outstanding achievement! Look behind you, Howie. There are a bunch not far behind.

The 5M program is one in which all club members are enrolled. Points are awarded for each contest based on scores submitted. Awards are given based on milestone levels achieved, with a 5-million plaque being awarded when that point level is reached. Endorsements are provided for higher levels of achievement. The 5M program measures where the rubber meets the road in terms of contest results that benefit inter-club competition and the program's imputed scoring does well in rewarding participants on their relative contributions.

Achieving the 5M plaque level is significant and takes at least several seasons for most individual Ops to earn. We all appreciate the significance and effort it takes to advance through award levels, from 1M to "the sky's the limit." This month I would like to recognize 5M program member achievements at both ends of the spectrum, without intent to slight the significant middle of which I am a member and for which I have great respect. The top end list includes those who have achieved 100M or more. We'll talk about the important group of those with point totals in the 10-99M range at a future time.

N4AF	200 M	WX3B	115 M*
KD4D	165 M*	N4RV	105 M*
K3ZO	160 M*	W3LL	105 M*
W3LPL	155 M*	N3QE	105 M*
K3MM	155 M*	N4YDU	100 M
N3OC	120 M*	N8II	100 M
* Actual plaque endorsement s above 100 M are awarded in 25 M increments			
K8LF	5 M plaque	KK4ODQ	3 M
WT3K	5 M plaque	K3SX	3 M
NZ4N	5 M plaque	WK3A	3 M
K3JT	5 M plaque	W3FOX	2 M
W3XOX	5 M plaque	K2KW	2 M
K4HQB	5 M plaque	K3MZ	2 M
KU1CW	5 M plaque	K3TD	2 M
K4QS	5 M plaque	NX3Z	2 M
N6DW	5 M plaque	N3DUE	2 M
KL2A	5 M plaque	K2GO	2 M
K3ZZ+	5 M plaque	K4YCR	1 M cert
K3EW	4 M	AD5XI	1 M cert
K3MTR	4 M	N1EK	1 M cert
NN4RB	4 M	KP3MM	1 M cert
KU4V	4 M	KM4SII	1 M cert
W3FA	3 M	W4PIC	1 M cert
K1BZ	3 M	K6ZO	1 M cert
N3XF	3 M	KI3C	1 M cert
+ K3ZZ also 10M			

Each of these exceptional Ops has their own story in addition to sharing the common quality of championship. Howie doing it as a single Op, KD4D without a station of his own, N3QE with an incredible single multi-band wire, and the others with their own twists. There is no formula other than dedication and skill.

Remember when you received your first 5M award? I certainly do. The PVRC members that earned awards between 1 and 5 M this past season in the early stages of their climb up the 5 M ladder are shown to the left. They will make their way up, each in their own way and often under the mentorship of one or more fellow club members. N1EK earned more than 1M points in his first season, K2GO over 2M last season, K3ZZ blew through 5M to earn over 10M.

Last season's plaques are being fabricated and will go out soon. Some endorsements have been mailed and the rest are on their heels.

Congratulations to all who have achieved a new 5M level this year. Thanks to all for maintaining the momentum. Keep adding PVRC points in club competitions.

GO PVRC!

73, Dan K2YWE

PVRC Officers:		Trustees:	
President:	K2YWE Dan Zeitlin	K3MM, N3OC, K2AV, K7SV, W3LPL, N3KN, N4ZR, W2RU, W3LL	
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PVRC Olympic Results 2020-2021 Season – Mike N4GU

The yearly Olympics award program recognizes members who ‘do things’ in the club. Those ‘things’ range from entering contests to help PVRC win the club competition, attending meetings (virtual for most of the last year), make contributions to the club newsletter or club treasury, recruit new members, and so on. While our primary focus is on winning club competitions in the different contests, all the other ‘things’ help keep the club connected, growing and functioning.

This year saw another banner crop of medal winners, recognizing members for their helping to keep PVRC as the top club we are. There are a total of 93 medals being awarded this year: 18 Gold, 24 Silver, and 51 Bronze. Congratulations to all the medal winners. Special recognition to N1EK, N3CKI, and WN3F for achieving a Bronze Medal in their first Olympic season (and first year of PVRC membership)! Medals will be distributed soon.

Gold Medal Winners

AA3S AB3CV K2YWE K3AJ K3MM K3WA K4XL K5VIP K8LF KB3VQC N1RM
N3KN N3QE N4CF N4RA N4TL ND3D W4VIC

Silver Medal Winners

K1BZ K3TD K3YDX K3ZO K4HQK K4QPL KU4V N2QT N3AM N3CW N3JT
N4GU N4MM N4ZR N6DW NN4RB NR4O W2CDO W3IP W3LL W3LPL W3OU
WA3EKL WT3K

Bronze Medal Winners

AD5XI K1GG K1HTV K2AV K3JT K3LU K4FTO K4ORD K4YCR K4ZW K7SV
KG4USN KK4R N0YY N1EK N3AC N3ALN N3CKI N3DPB N3DUE N3OC N3VOP
N3XL N4CW N4PD N4YDU N8AID N8II NC3Y NR4C NR4M W1IE W3DQ
W3EKT W3FA W3FOX W3GVX W3IDT W3IUU W3TAS W3YY W4IPC W4PK
W4RN W4WWQ W4YE WA3AER WB4FDT WN3F WS6X WX3B

The new contest season started July 1, 2021. For this next season, the Olympics rules have been simplified. Check out the new rules on the website [here](#).



W4YY Field Day Photos – Mike W3IP and Mike W4RN



L-R Paul N4PD, Mike W4RN, Jeff K0ZR, Bill W3UL. Location is the front deck of the W4RN estate. Not pictured are remote ops Tom K2GO and Alex KU1CW. (de W3IP)

One of our FD crew, Paul-N4PD, furnished this fan for our FD outing. We had to get rid of a lot of hot air.
(de W4RN)



Wind Damage New and Old – Rick N1RM and John N3AM

Rick N1RM: Kris and I were at Williamsburg this weekend celebrating our anniversary. We got a call from a neighbor saying a tree was down on top of the shack. It happened either Friday night or Saturday morning.

Miraculously, it looks like there was almost no damage. All I could see was a bent gutter. We'll know for sure when the tree gets removed. It even managed to just miss both my AC compressor and my generator!



John N3AM: Eleven years ago, on July 25, 2010 a microburst hit our backyard, snapping trees and slamming them into the house and my amateur radio antennas. Damages totaled over \$80,000 and subsequent repairs included four new skylights, a new roof, siding, gutters, radio tower and antennas.

In addition to numerous tulip poplar trees littering the yard and hitting the house, a large (24'+) oak tree snapped like a twig and slammed into the family room. The impact to the roof was cushioned by the tower guy cables running behind the family room. With the help of a 70-ton crane, a professional tower climber removed all the damaged antennas, and I set about the task of repairing or replacing my antennas for re-installation.



Building Better Doghouses to Get Out of the Doghouse – Ken KE3X

We all know how important it is to have a supportive XYL (or XOM) for contesting. For a while I used an upside-down green plastic storage tub to cover the ground connector for my 160-Meter NE/SW K9AY loop. One day Ann happened to notice it and mentioned "Gee that looks kind of ugly" To improve the aesthetics I built a pair of 'Mini-Houses' out of spare lumber (1x4's and fence pickets) and covered in roof shingles to match our shed. The two little houses now cover both the 160 Transmit and Receive antennas and blend in much better with the garden.

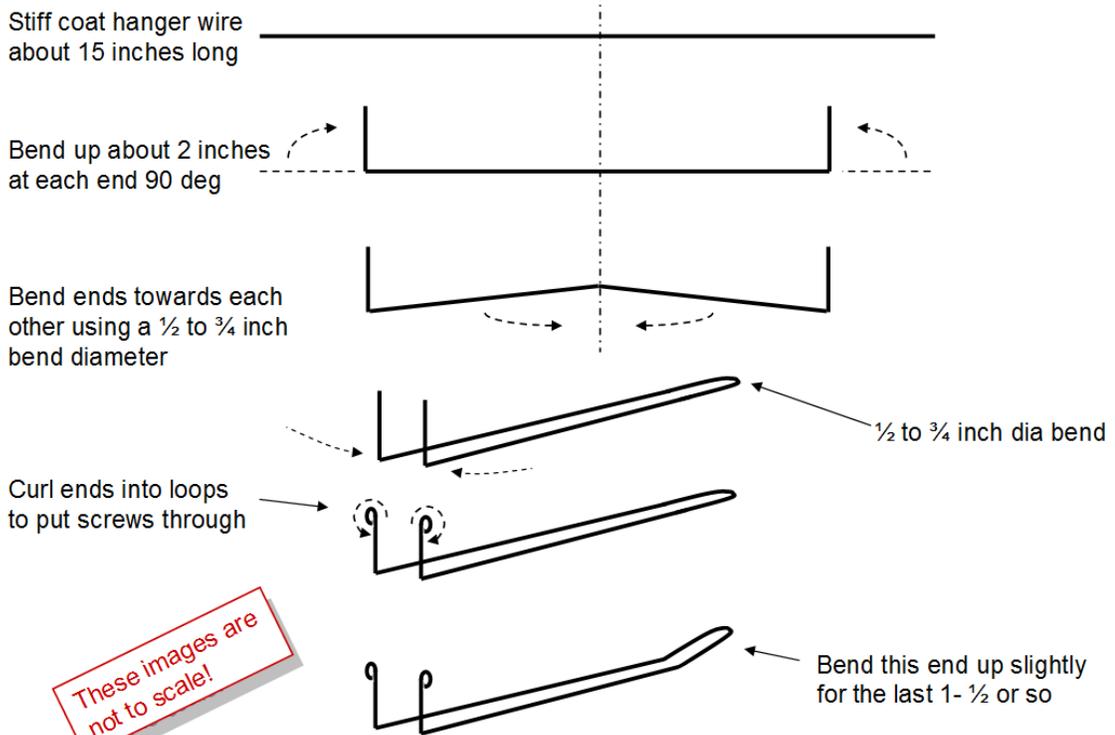


Headphone Hanger – Dan K2YWE

I needed a way to keep headphones from taking up precious desk space on my small operating desk when they were not in use. I created a solution with a steel coat hanger like laundries and dry cleaners use. If you want to make your own, you will need one of the brown thicker hangers as I don't think the thinner ones (often white) are sturdy enough. You could double them up if they are all you can find or perhaps use ceiling tile hanger wire.



K2YWE's Headphone Hanger
made from coat hanger wire



Meet the PVRCer! John K3TN

Your Call
K3TN

First Year Licensed:
1969

Previous Calls:
WB2EKK, WA2ADH (jumped the gun after passing General), WN2ADH

QTH and PVRC Chapter:
Ashton, MD
Northwest Chapter



1 K3TN at Atsu JE1TRV's station

Favorite Contest and Why:

I prefer CW contests with challenging exchanges. My all-time favorite is the CW Sprint – 4 hours of non-stop action. Probably ARRL Sweepstakes after that, though not quite as action packed. On the exact opposite end of the spectrum, I love Field Day and try to get on in most state QSO parties to give the ops a few Qs. I think both are where we get most new contesters from, especially once they try calling CQ!

Least Favorite Contest and Why:

I find myself avoiding most of the contests where the exchange is fixed or a given and everyone just runs history files or the contest software fills it all in. For that reason, I don't enjoy FT8 in contests – I did a talk at Dayton on that a few years ago – even though I do enjoy FT8 for DXing.

Favorite part of Ham Radio other than contesting:

I like learning about new technologies and improving my skills using them. I've been playing around with Arduino boards recently and "If This, Then That" automation, as well as DMR and the digital modes. But my early attraction to ham radio still holds – having friends around the world. These days the internet is an easy way to stay in touch, but over the air QSOs are still special.

Favorite thing to do other than Ham Radio:

I'd much rather be outdoors than indoors, so long distance bicycling and hiking are my first choice for nice weekends. I've spent my entire career in information security and now spend a lot of time helping friends and neighbors deal with issues! A new grandson is now moving up the list, too...

Anything else you'd like to say?

I've been editing the PVRC newsletter for 10 years or so and really appreciate how many people contribute. Send me anything you have – the Club really benefits from the knowledge and experience of the members.

PVRC 6M DXCC Standings – Frank W3LPL

Below are the 6M DXCC totals for PVRC members, transcribed from the ARRL DXCC data as of the 20th of each month or so. Thanks to Frank for the data each month to make this a regular feature. Please report any omissions or errors to [Frank](#).

Call	DXCC	Call	DXCC	Call	DXCC
W3BTX	167	W3LL	126	N4VA	106
K1HTV	165	K5EK	125	W2YE	106
W4DR	164	WX4G	124	W3XY	104
N4MM	151	NW5E	123	K3ZO	103
W3LPL	148	K3SX	121	K5VIP	103
W3UR	142	AK3E	120	N3DB	103
K4CIA	134	K3XA	119	W3OR	103
K2PLF	133	W3KX	119	N4PY	102
N4BAA	133	N4TL	113	W4FQT	102
N2QT	132	N4JQQ	111	K3WC	101
K4SN	131	W3EKT	111	W3DF	100
K4SO	130	N4DB	110	W3XO	100
AB3CV	126	W4PK	109	W4TJ	100
KG7H	126	K3KO	108		



Membership News – Tim N3QE

PVRC did not add any new members in the latest reporting period.

Chapter leaders please remember to complete the [Meeting Attendance Report](#).
 Members can check and update their roster details via the [Roster Lookup](#).

Upcoming Contests – from [WA7BNM](#)

September 2021

+ All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 4 to 2400Z, Sep 5
+ CWOps CW Open	0000Z-0359Z, Sep 4
+ CWOps CW Open	1200Z-1559Z, Sep 4
+ CWOps CW Open	2000Z-2359Z, Sep 4
+ WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 11 to 2359Z, Sep 12
+ ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 11 to 0300Z, Sep 13
+ North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 12
+ Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	1200Z, Sep 18 to 1200Z, Sep 19
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 25 to 2400Z, Sep 26

Editor’s Last Word – John K3TN

Thanks to for contributions to this issue of the PVRC newsletter from Rick N1RM, John N3AM, Ken KE3X, Dan K2YWE and a trio of Mikes: W3IP, W4RN and N4GU

As you can see, my pipeline of “Meet the PVRCer!” inputs dried up so I cheated and used myself. If you are willing to take a bit of time and provide information about yourself, email me and I’ll send you the short form.

A new grandson and the post-vaccination ability to travel and burn some vacation time has reduced my operating time to near zero. The good news is the solar flux level seems to have been holding back – I’m hoping both my contesting time and the sunspots come back this fall!.

The quality and usefulness of the PVRC newsletter depends on contributions from members. If you have photos from club meetings, screen shots of new contest software, or brief writeups on station improvements or contest war stories, send them in any format to [jpescatore at aol dot com](mailto:jpescatore@aol.com).

From the PVRC Treasurer – Jay W3MMM

PVRC has chosen not to implement an annual dues requirement. We depend on the generosity of all our club members to finance our annual budget. In addition, active PVRC members are expected to participate and submit logs for at least two PVRC Club Competition contests per year.

When contemplating your donation to PVRC, each member should consider the benefit you are receiving from PVRC and its many opportunities for your personal growth in our wonderful hobby, then donate accordingly.

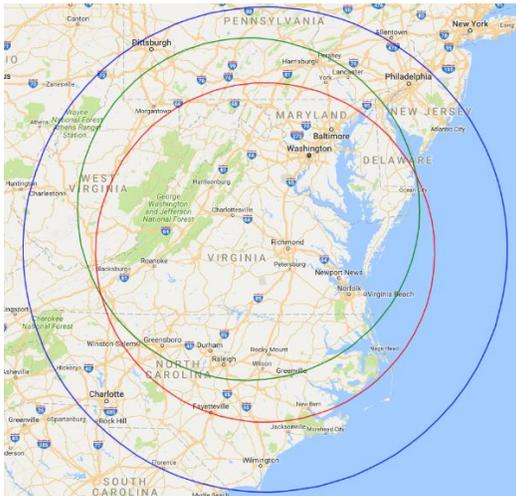
Direct donations to PVRC via Credit Card or PayPal may be made by clicking this "Donate" button and clicking the next Donate button that appears on your screen:



Donations to PVRC are not tax deductible

Eyeball QSO Directions

The latest info on local club meetings and get togethers will always be sent out on the [PVRC reflector](#) and posted on the PVRC [web site](#).



Green: ARRL VHF Circle
175 mile radius
Around 38.075N,
78.171W

Red: ARRL HF Circle
175 mile radius
Around 37.43168N,
77.858482W

Blue: CQ HF Circle
250 mile radius
Around 37.43168N,
77.858482W



Now a Word From Our Sponsors

PVRC doesn't ask for dues, but the Club does have expenses. You can also support the Club by buying from the firms listed who advertise in the newsletter!



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These low-loss cable assemblies are available in standard lengths with DX Engineering's revolutionary patented PL-259 connector. Use the online Custom Cable Builder at DXEngineering.com to build assemblies made to your exact specs. DX Engineering's coaxial cable is also available by the foot or in bulk spools. Enter "DXE Cable" at DXEngineering.com.



IC-705 HF/50/144/430 Portable Transceiver

With the features and functionality of the IC-7300, IC-7610, and IC-9700, Icom's new QRP rig is like owning a base transceiver you can hold in one hand. It boasts SDR Direct Sampling technology for stellar transmit and receive performance; 4.3" color touchscreen; real-time spectrum scope and waterfall display; built-in Bluetooth®; wireless LAN; and full D-STAR capabilities. IC-705 accessories include backpack (ICO-LC-192) and compact automatic tuner (ICO-AH-705). Enter "IC-705" at DXEngineering.com.



Equipment Cases

Protect your sensitive equipment! DX Engineering boasts three rugged options to keep your gear safe: virtually indestructible Gator Equipment Rack Cases for transporting everything you need in your Go-Kit; high-impact resin NANUK cases, including units that perfectly fit RigExpert Antenna Analyzers; and iPortable units that combine a travel case with a DC power distribution point, speaker, and rack shelving. Enter "Equipment Case" at DXEngineering.com.



Portable Antennas

Need a versatile and easy-to-transport antenna? You'll find it here! Models include DX Engineering's EZ-BUILD UWA Center T and End Insulator Kits that let you build virtually any wire antenna type; Icom's 40-10M Magnetic Loop Antenna for the IC-705; a wide selection of rugged Comet HT and mobile antennas for upgraded performance; options from Chameleon, including the F-Loop Portable, EMCOMM II and III HF antennas, and HF Backpack Antenna Systems; AlexLoop's HamPack Portable Magnetic Loop Antenna System; and many more. Enter "Portable Antenna" at DXEngineering.com.



DC Outlet Panels and Battery Backup Systems



Bid farewell to that annoying tangle of spaghetti wire with RIGrunner DC outlet panels from West Mountain Radio. These outlets are fused for protection and ensure you have reliable power distribution. They provide 40 amps of maximum power and include from 4 to 12 Powerpole® connectors. West Mountain also makes backup devices, such as the Super PWRgate, which instantly switches to battery backup if you lose power. Enter "West Mountain" at DXEngineering.com.



Antenna Tuners

DX Engineering carries a great lineup of LDG Electronics innovative automatic tuners to match just about any antenna and maximum power handling requirement, from 100 to 1,000 watts. Select from the 100W IT-100 model, which is ideal for Icom rigs; the 100W YT-100, designed for specific Yaesu radios; the QRP-friendly Z-817 auto-tuner; and the new Z-100A that can be interfaced with dozens of modern transceivers. Enter "LDG Tuner" at DXEngineering.com.



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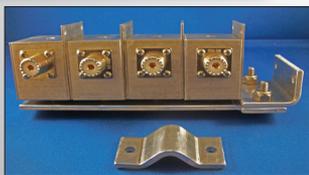
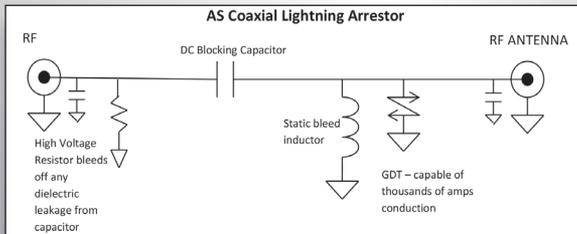
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- FM low power broadcast model AS-303D FM
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AS-303U



OM Power Amplifiers Sales and Service



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5kW - DC to 6m
RATPAK – 1x6

Choice of Multiple Controllers

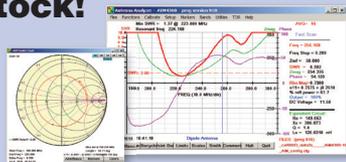
SIXPAK – 2x6



VNAuhf Back in Stock!

Vector Network Analyzer

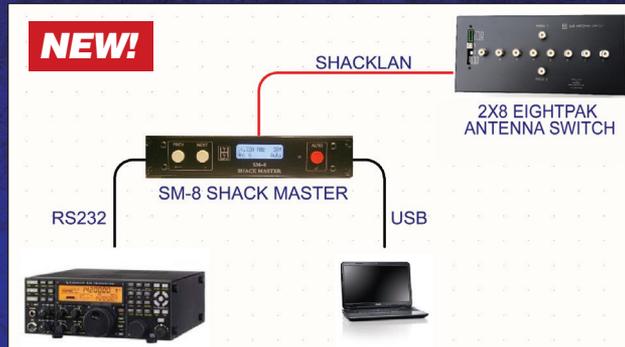
5 kHz - 1.3 GHz \$1295



Hamation Station Automation

Hamation remote and Local Station Control products allow you to automatically or manually select antennas, bandpass filters, and control accessories. Accessories can be StackMatches, Antenna switches, antenna phasing systems, SteppiR controller, turning radios on and off, etc. All of this can be done directly from the Ethernet as well!

Wiring are simple phone cables that daisy chain to all the devices. Wireless control is also available to your tower-located switches. Call us to learn how to set up simple or complex systems. Below is a simple basic system that can switch antennas as you change bands. We can interface to any radio CAT port, not just RS232.



A more complex system could be a SO2R contest station as shown.



The Shared Apex Loop Array™!

Capture the whole band or the whole HF spectrum at once with the Shared Apex Loop Array 2nd Generation. Can be remote controlled over the internet or in your station. 8 directions of directivity.

The Shared Apex Loop Array™ is a revolutionary receiving antenna that will change the way that you listen to the radio! The patented design provides performance in a size and over a wide range of frequencies that will please both the rag-chewer and DXer alike.

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- AS-SAL-20 - optimized for BCB, and 1.8-30 MHz
- AS-SAL-12 - optimized for 3-30 MHz



StackMatch

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ID-4100A | VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Xcvr

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IC-2300H | VHF FM Transceiver

- 65W RF Output Power • 4.5W Audio Output • MIL-STD 810 G Specifications • 207 alphanumeric Memory Channels • Built-in CTCSS/DTCS Encode/Decode • DMS



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- RF Direct Sampling System • New "IP+" Function • Class Leading RMDR and Phase Noise Characteristics • 15 Discrete Band-Pass Filters • Built-In Automatic Antenna Tuner



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IC-V86 | VHF 7W HT

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FTDX101MP | 200W HF/50MHz Transceiver

- Hybrid SDR Configuration • Unparalleled 70 dB Max. Attenuation VC-Tune • New Generation Scope Display 3DSS • ABI (Active Band Indicator) & MPVD (Multi-Purpose VFO Outer Dial) • PC Remote Control Software to Expand the Operating Range • Includes External Power With Matching Front Speaker



FTDX10 | HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver

- Narrow Band and Direct Sampling SDR • Down Conversion, 9MHz IF Roofing Filters Produce Excellent Shape Factor • 5" Full-Color Touch Panel w/3D Spectrum Stream • High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner • Microphone Amplifier w/3-Stage Parametric Equalizer • Remote Operation w/optional LAN Unit (SCU-LAN10)



FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver

- Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control • Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System • 3kHz Roofing Filter for enhanced performance • 3.5 Inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO



FTDX101D | HF + 6M Transceiver

- Narrow Band SDR & Direct Sampling SDR • Crystal Roofing Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics • Unparalleled - 70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune • 15 Separate (HAM 10 + GEN 5) Powerful Band Pass Filters • New Generation Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream



FT-891 | HF+50 MHz All Mode Mobile Transceiver

- Rugged Construction in an Ultra Compact Body • Stable 100 Watt Output with Efficient Dual Internal Fans • 32-Bit IF DSP Provides Effective and Optimized QRM Rejection • Large Dot Matrix LCD Display with Quick Spectrum Scope • USB Port Allows Connection to a PC with a Single Cable • CAT Control, PTT/RTTY Control



FTM-300DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band

- 50W Reliable Output Power • Real Dual Band Operation (V+V, U+U, V+U, U+V) • 2-inch High-Res Full Color TFT Display • Band Scope • Built-in Bluetooth • WiRES-X Portable Digital Node/Fixed Node with HRI-200



FT-2980R | Heavy-Duty 80W 2M FM Transceiver

- Massive heatsink guarantees 80 watts of solid RF power • Loud 3 watts of audio output for noisy environments • Large 6 digit backlit LCD display for excellent visibility • 200 memory channels for serious users



FT-818ND | HF/6M/2M/440 All Mode Portable Xcvr

- Ultra-Compact/Portable • Multi-Color Easy to See LCD • 208 Memory Channels/10 Memory Groups • Built-in Electronic Keyer • Internal Battery Operation Capability • Two Antenna Connectors • Built-in High Stability Oscillator ±0.5 ppm



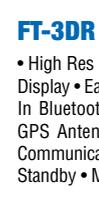
FTM-400XD | 2M/440 Mobile

- Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray • GPS/APRS • Packet 1200/9600 bd ready • Spectrum scope • Bluetooth • MicroSD slot • 500 memory per band



FT-70DR C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr

- System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of Loud Audio Output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Analog and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1,105 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



FT-3DR C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Xcvr

- High Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Simultaneous C4FM/C4FM Standby • Micro SD Card Slot



FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver

- Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power Within a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



FT-60R | 2M/440 5W HT

- Wide receiver coverage • AM air band receive • 1000 memory channels w/alpha labels • Huge LCD display • Rugged die-cast, water resistant case • NOAA severe weather alert with alert scan



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